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CONTENTS.

-							AGR
A YEAR OF CONTINENT.	AL LI	TERA	TUE	Œ,	I	I.	79
ENGLISH AT THE UNIVE	RSITY	OF M	исн	IG	AN	٧.	
Fred N. Scott							82
WALTER PATER							84
FRANCIS H. UNDERWOOD	D						85
COMMUNICATIONS							85
The Teaching of Literatus Carpenter.	re, Agai	n. F	reder	ick	Iv	es	
A GREAT PUBLIC SERVA	NT. M	elville .	B. A	nde	1786	m	86
THE STRENGTH AND WI						-	On
							31
A BRITISH DIPLOMAT IN W. Clement				-			92
BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS							
Town Life in the Fifteent							198
tures of a Mormon Village	Liter	ary an	d So	cial	S	1-	
houettes.—Jewish Influen —Recollections of English				eov	er	y.	
BRIEFER MENTION							96
NEW YORK TOPICS. Arti	hur Sted	man					96
LITERARY NOTES AND 3	IISCEI	LAN	Y .				97

A YEAR OF CONTINENTAL LITERATURE.

11.

Resuming the survey begun in our last issue of the year's literary production upon the European continent, we will first turn to the Commendatore Bonghi's report of Italian letters. The death of Adolfo Bartoli, the literary historian, appears to have been the most important event of the year. He "was largely instrumental in introducing a method of criticism which, in more respects than one, was new to Italy." He found many followers in his

work, and the way is gradually being prepared, in the author's view, "for a full and elaborate history of Italian literature conceived upon a more comprehensive scale than anything that is yet in existence." Signor d'Annunzio's last novel, "Il Trionfo della Morte," is the most important work of fiction mentioned. "The triumph of death in this case is due to a lover who ends his career by killing his mistress and himself." Final judgment upon the work is thus rendered:

"The whole book seems to me false and exaggerated, and I must confess that I found the perusal of its five hundred pages an irksome task. Nevertheless there are fine passages in it, for Signor d'Annunzio possesses a real talent for description, and he occasionally strikes the note of passion with a ring of sincerity. The morality of the book is anything but wholesome; it shows the influence of Zola on every page."

Signora Serao, who is the favorite authoress with the novel-reading public, has published two volumes of tales and sketches. In poetry, Signor Carducci has published nothing, but his "evolution" has "been made the subject of a discreetly successful book by a young man named Panzini." We are further told that "bad poets, as usual, abound, although the newspapers tell a different tale. But newspapers, whether political or literary, as a rule merely reproduce in their criticisms the publisher's advertisements, which are, of course, extravagantly laudatory." None of the poets of the year " is quite equal to a journey across the Alps, except perhaps Alfredo Baccelli. . . His style is refined, his language well chosen, and his subjects interesting. His book is called 'Vittime e Rebelli,' and I should be inclined to rank it above any other contribution to the poetry of the year." In history, the writer calls for more art and less matter, complaining that we get nothing but documents and special researches. "In this department of literature the book of the year was undoubtedly the collected edition of the letters of Coluccio Salutati, a celebrated philologist and statesman of the fourteenth century, brought out by the historical Institute." Finally, mention is made of the newly organized Society of French Studies in Italy, which, by encouraging a wider acquaintance with French literature, will make things uncomfortable for the too obvious plagiarist and imitator.

Don Juan F. Riaño gives much interest to the story of the literary year in Spain. That country is fortunate in the possession of academies that are willing "to undertake the publication of costly works not likely to have a large circulation." The Academy of History, for example, has superintended the issue of several important works, and the Academia Española has published "La Filologia Castellana," by Count de la Viñaza, and the "Teatro Completo de Juan de la Encino," besides continuing its monumental edition of Lope de Vega, and its "Antologia de Poetas Hispano-Americanos." Columbus and the Melilla affair have been the most "actual" subjects of historical writing during the year. The most important contribution to the former is Señor Castelar's "Colon," while the latter has called forth many books and pamphlets. A work upon "La Toma de Granada," by Señor Davalos y Lerchundi, calls for the following interesting note:

"Ever since the capture of Granada on the 2d of January, 1492, the Royal Maestranza has celebrated that event by meeting in the Bibarambla, and other squares in Granada, for the purpose of celebrating a mock tournament, jousting and tilting with cañas. On the 2d of January last, which happened to be the quarter-centenary of the conquest of that city as well as that of the discovery of the New World, the master riders of Granada decided that, instead of holding the antiquated tournament, a prize should be offered to the best composition in prose or verse recording the taking of Granada. This the above-mentioned writer has accomplished in a creditable manner, at the same time giving the names and particulars of the titled nobility, prelates, and knights who appended their signatures to the capitulation."

Among works of a belletristic character, mention is made of "Margaritas," a volume of poems by Señor Limeres; "Torquemada en la Cruz," a novel by Señor Perez Galdós; and "Origin del Pensamiento" and "El Maestrante," novels by Señor Palacio Valdés. Two important dramas, the "Mariana" of Señor Echegaray and the "Dolores" of Señor Felin y Codina, have been performed during the year, and have disputed for the dramatic prize of a thousand dollars.

"At last the Academy by a majority of votes decided in favour of Echegaray, a decision which the disappointed party resented, a somewhat fierce polemic in the newspapers of Madrid being the consequence."

The author concludes with these remarks upon the general literary situation:

"The demand for books is great and constant, and authors and publishers are making efforts to supply it, no matter how: the consequence is that all is in confusion, and anarchy prevails in every branch of literature, some few still holding tenaciously to the old school with slight modifications, whilst others (and they are unluckily the greater number) follow no school and recognize no rule whatever. No wonder then if Zola's novels and Count Tolstoy's lucubrations are the fashion of the day."

Professor S. O. Lambros writes of literary Greece, and tells as long a story as was to be expected of so small a country. He begins with a summary of "Mycenæ and the Mycenmean Culture," by Christos Tsuntas, the most important publication of the year. The memoirs of Spyridon Pilikas and Alexander Rhangabé are of much historical value. Kleon Rhangabé, a son of the diplomatist just mentioned, is the author of "Poems of Sorrow," the most important verse of the year. Fiction is represented by "Our Athens," a social novel by Nicolas Spandonis; "The Prime Minister," a political romance by G. Vokos; and volumes of tales by Constantine Passajiannis, Demetrius Hatzopulos, and the late Constantine Krystallis.

"Tobacco Juliet," a novel by Zsigmond Justh, is the best Hungarian novel of the year, according to Herr Leopold Katscher:

"In this book Justh, who is at the head of the more distinguished Hungarian realists of our day, presents a picture, equally ideal and natural, of plain, simple country life. Truth is here turned into fiction in a manner strongly resembling Tolstoy's, and it is not too much to say that the author has, by this latest work of his, reached the front rank of Hungarian fiction."

A long list of other novels is given, but their authors are practically unknown outside of Hungary. The same remark may be made of the poets, of whom Gyözö Dolmady, with his patriotic songs, Ernö Erödi, with his monody on Kossuth, and Jenö Heltai, with his Kipling-like lyrics, are singled out for honorable mention. The following remarks are of general interest:

"Of the many lives of Kossuth which have appeared the best is the one written by Lajos Hentaller. Of course, Jókai's jubilee (his seventieth birthday, which, by the way, was celebrated in the most enthusiastic manner throughout the country) has also called forth various biographical publications. The first ten volumes of the hundred-volume edition of this master's novels (about two thousand copies of which at 20% have been subscribed for) have just been issued."

Gebauer's "Historical Grammar of the Bohemian Language" is described by Mr. V. Tille as "the most important [Bohemian] publication of the past twelve months." The first part only has appeared, but others will soon follow. Mr. Tille gives most of his attention to belles-lettres, which

"are from year to year becoming more subject to the new ideas which have for some time stirred all European

literature, and are symptoms of a deep intellectual revolution. Their influence is most conspicuous in the productions of the younger generation."

In poetry, there are volumes by Vrchlicky, Machar, Dvorák, and others; in fiction, many interesting things. Two novels are thus characterized:

"V. Mristík strives to describe in his novel 'Santa Lucia' the struggle for existence and the impressions of a poor student in Prague. But the leading ideas grow misty, and the want of a skilful hand, which could bring order into the multitude of scenes and characters, is sorely felt. Much the same thing may be said with regard to F. A. Simácek's 'Two Loves.' Life amongst the superior and inferior employés on country estates and in sugar manufactories is minutely and ably described; still the leading idea of the whole, the new attachment of an official who had been engaged for many years to another girl, and the conflicts of his conscience, is touched upon only in its outward phases, reminding the reader of many old similar romantic types, and forming merely a frame for details of life well worked out."

The following bit of information is particularly welcome:

"At last a few competent writers are beginning to bestow some pains upon literature for children. A foreigner can hardly conceive with what trash Bohemian children used to be supplied by writers, male and female, and how hopeless the search for a good children's book was. Only quite lately an improvement has been noticeable, and last year two particularly nice books appeared — an illustrated Bohemian history by Dolensky, under the supervision of Professor Rezek, of Prague University, and 'Old Bohemian Historical Tales,' by Jirásek."

Two or three noteworthy historical works, one play, one book of poems, several novels, and a considerable quantity of Kosciuszko literature, are the leading features of Dr. Adam Belcikowski's report of Polish letters. The poems are by A. Asnyk, "the most remarkable Polish poet of the day, at once a finished artist and a deep thinker." The play is K. Zalewski's "What Mean You by It?" having " for its subject an ethical question, which the author answers in somewhat pessimistic fashion, viz., whether an honorable deed completed in obedience to the dictates of conscience is appreciated by the world or not." Of the works of fiction mentioned, five seem to be of exceptional interest. "Emancipation," by B. Prus, deals with the "woman question." "Naphtha," by Maciejowski, "describes with uncommon energy and much spirit the life of the great contractors and the poor workmen in a Gali-cian petroleum bed." "The Two Poles," by E. Orzeszko, is a psychological romance of two young people who love one another, but who "separate because they perceive that the dif-

ference between their ideas and their views of the world is so great that they could find no happiness in living together." "There Am I," by A. Krechowiecki, is upon the theme "that an artist cannot attain to intellectual ripeness so long as he has not through suffering and higher feelings reached a moral equilibrium." Finally, the "Mechesy" of Gawalewicz, which has made "a great stir," is thus described:

"The plot turns upon the marriage of a young lady belonging to the nobility with the son of a banker of Jewish extraction. The bride finds herself so strange and uncomfortable in her novel surroundings that she separates from her husband, although she sees and acknowledges his many merits. The deserted husband seeks in his turn to get rid of the stamp of his origin by developing a great activity as a patriot."

The absence of Sienkiewicz from the list of the year's novelists is conspicuous.

The latest of the nations to enter into the literary comity of Europe shall be the subject of the last of these summaries. M. Paul Milyoukov writes of Russian literature in the philosophical spirit, and his account is of much interest, although few important works are mentioned. The most important, perhaps, is "The Turning Point," by Boborikin, a novel not yet completed, which reflects the successive phases of Russian thought during the past half-century. The great social discussion of the present in Russia is between the "peasantists" and the "Marxists."

"While 'peasantism' puts its faith exclusively in the character and 'spirit' of the people, 'Marxism' rests all its hopes on 'institutions'; while the former is inclined to regard the fundamental principles of national life as primordial and immutable, the latter believes in the necessity of social evolution; and, lastly, while the former limits its practical programme to social reforms by the people, the latter is ready to join in the bourgeois demand for political reforms for the people."

This discussion is voiced in many current publications. Among the many books named by the writer, only two others appear of sufficient interest to be mentioned here. One is Alexander Veselovsky's study of Boccaccio, and the other is Count Tolstoy's "The Kingdom of God is Within You." Veselovsky, we are told, "is at once the greatest authority on the literature of the Middle Ages and one of the most brilliant representatives of the comparative historical method in literature." Of Count Tolstoy's work, already put into English, a summary is given, ending with the following suggestive statement:

"It is scarcely necessary on this occasion to add that the sphere of influence of Tolstoy's ideas grows narrower every year."

ENGLISH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

For the collegiate year 1894-95, the University of Michigan announces twenty-one courses in English and rhetoric. Ten are courses in literature, historical or critical; five are in linguistics; and six are in rhetoric and composition. There is the usual division into courses which may and courses which must be taken by those who intend to graduate, but with us the requirements differ for the different degrees. Candidates for the engineering degrees, and for the degree of Bachelor of Science in chemistry or biology, are let off with a single course in composition. Candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Letters must take two courses in composition, besides one in literature and one in linguistics. All others are required to elect two courses in composition. The work is in charge of four men: a professor of English and rhetoric, who is head of the department; a junior professor of English, an assistant professor of rhetoric, and an instructor in English composition. In addition to this, the regular force, there are two graduate students who devote a part of their time to teaching composition or reading essays.

The number of students who elected courses in English the past year, not allowing for names counted twice, was 1198. To this number should perhaps be added 110 applicants for work in composition for whom provision could not be made. The distribution of the elections was as follows: In modern literature, 225; in Old and Middle English literature, and linguistics, 252; in rhetoric and com-

position, 721.

In considering the various courses in English, it will be convenient to follow the division I have used above; that is, into modern literature, Old and Middle English, and linguistics, rhetoric, and composition. The first is the province of Professor Demmon, who is head of the department; Professor Hempl is in charge of the second; and the burden of the rhetoric and composition work falls upon

the shoulders of the instructor (Mr. Dawson), the two assistants, and myself. In modern literature, the department offers a be-

ginning course and three seminary courses, associating with the latter ancillary lectures in criticism and the history of the drama. The beginning course, in charge of Professor Hempl, is a general introduction to the subject. It is a three-hour course, running through one semester. In this, a text-book is used to furnish a historical outline, and very brief quizzes are given upon it. Most of the time in class is taken up by the presentation of reports by some half-dozen members of the class to whom the lesson of the day had previously been assigned for special study in the University library. The object of these reports is to bring the student into direct contact with the literature and to familiarize him somewhat with critical methods and the leading

books on the subject.

The seminary courses are conducted by Professor Demmon, and aim to give the student an intimate first-hand acquaintance with representative masterpieces. To secure admission to this advanced work is somewhat difficult, since at least five prescribed courses must precede, and there is some sifting even of those who are technically qualified. Professor Demmon offers a seminary in English literature, another in American literature, and a Shakespeare seminary. The programme of work is as follows: At the beginning of the semester, each member of the class is assigned a masterpiece and asked to prepare upon it a comprehensive biographical and critical essay. He is also expected to present at some time during the semester a critique of an essay by a fellow-member. As soon as his task is assigned, he begins reading upon it in the seminary rooms connected with the library, with the assistance of references prepared by Professor Demmon. If he is a member of the Shakespeare course, he has the opportunity of using the McMillan Shakespeare collection of 3500 volumes. When the work is under way, each section of the seminary (a section containing about twelve students) meets every week in a two-hour session. The first hour is spent in listening to the essay and the critique, and the second hour in an extemporaneous discussion of the work in hand. Each member is called upon in turn, and says what the spirit moves him to say. He makes report upon what he has read, or agrees or disagrees with the judgments of the essayist or the critic, or advances individual appreciations of the work. When all opinions have been aired-and generally some little fencing takes place over nice points of criticism—there is usually time for a summing-up of the arguments and a discussion of a special question or two by the conductor of the seminary. Both in the selection of masterpieces and the conduct of the classes, the aim is to supply the necessities rather than the luxuries of literature. For literary fads and vagaries there is neither time nor inclination. The student finds in the seminary courses the best that English and

This article is the fourteenth of an extended series on the Teaching of English at American Colleges and Universities, of which the following have already appeared in THE DIAL: English at Yale University, by Professor Albert S. Cook (Feb. 1); English at Columbia College, by Professor Brander Matthews (Feb. 16); English at Harvard University, by Professor Brander Matthews (Feb. 16); English at Harvard University, by Professor Brander Medical (March 1); English at Stanford University by Professor March 161; English at Columbia by Professor Mar Professor Barrett Wendell (March 1); English at Stanford University, by Professor Melville B. Anderson (March 16); English at Cornell University, by Professor (March 16); English at Cornell University of Virginia, by Professor Charles W. Kent (April 16); English at the University of Illinois, by Professor D. K. Dodge (May 1); English at Lafayette College, by Professor F. A. March (May 16); English at the State University of Iowa, by Professor E. E. Hale, Jr. (June 1); English at the University of Chicago, by Professor Albert H. Tolman (June 16); English at Indiana University, by Professor Martin W. Sampson (July 1); English at the University of California, by Professor Charles Mills Gayley (July 16); and English at Amherst College, by Professor John F. Genung (Aug. 1).—[Edr. Dial.]

American literature have to offer. If he goes no further, he has already travelled far; if he continues his studies after leaving the University, he will know at least the chief landmarks of the country he is to traverse.

With reference to the work in Old and Middle English, Professor Hempl has kindly written out for me the following statement:

"My work may generally be designated as linguistic; but some of the undergraduate courses are necessarily only linguistic in a simple and practical way, and consider also the literary side of what is read. This is particularly true of the two courses in Middle English—each twice a week for half a year, the second devoted mostly to Chaucer. There is also an elementary course in Old English, which, as well as the course in Early Middle English, is required of candidates for the degree of B.L.

"Advanced study of Old English is provided for in three courses, each half a year: Old English poetry twice a week; phonology and morphology, three times a week; syntax, twice a week.

"In historical English Grammar a general survey is made of the subject, and the students are given some practice in methods of investigation by being required to trace in English literature the development of various idioms, especially such as are often impugned.

"In alternate years a course is offered in present-spoken English. The students have been set to study their own speech and that of those about them, and have gathered numerous facts of interest as to American English. But the course has been more fruitful in opening their eyes to the real state of so-called 'standard English,' and in removing prejudice and establishing a more reasonable basis of judgment in dealing with matters of speech-usage. It also appears that a quicker and clearer insight into general linguistic facts and principles may be obtained by such a study of one's native speech (provided various forms and stages of it be represented by members of the class) than can be had from a study of foreign languages. Alternating with this course from year to year is a course in general phonetics."

Of the six courses which fall under the division "Rhetoric and Composition," four, each for one semester, have for their main object the cultivation of good writing; though one of the four, known as the Science of Rhetoric, combines with a large amount of practice a small amount of instruction in theory. In addition to these, there are two, one for graduates and one for undergraduates, which deal with rhetoric in its scientific aspects. For the required Freshman work, there is provided this year a two-hour course in paragraph-writing under Mr. Dawson and an assistant. As in other large universities, this part of the work presents peculiar difficulties. The big classes are about as heterogeneous as they well can be, most of the students writing crudely, some execrably, and only a few as

well as could be wished. These differences call for differences of treatment, yet it is impossible with our present teaching force to give adequate attention to individuals or to distinguish grades of proficiency. The most that can be done is to put in a section by themselves the Engineering students, whose performances in prose are often at the outset of a quite distressing character.

The course in paragraph-writing is followed by a two-hour elective course in theme-writing under Mr. Dawson; and this by a three-hour course, conducted by myself. The latter is required of all except the engineers and candidates for the degree of B.S. in chemistry and biology. It must be preceded by a course in psychology or logic, and hence is usually taken in the second semester of the Sophomore year or the first semester of the Junior year. An advanced course in composition completes the list of practical courses. For those who wish to supplement practice by theory, there is a course in the principles of prose style, and a graduate seminary course in which the evolution of rhetoric is tracely from Aristotle to the present time.

It will appear, I hope, from this outline, that the work in composition is intended, first and foremost, to be practical. The aim is not to inspire students to produce pure literature, if there be any such thing, or even to help them to acquire a beautiful style. If we can get them first to think straightforwardly about subjects in which they are genuinely interested, and then, after such fashion as nature has fitted them for, to express themselves clearly and connectedly, we have done about all we can hope to do. Perhaps the other things will then come of themselves. In trying to accomplish these ends, I have been accustomed in my own work to aim at three essentials: first, continuity and regularity of written exercises; second, much writing, much criticism, and much consultation; third, adaptation of method to the needs of the individual student. To secure the first, the student is made to write frequently and at regularly recurring periods, and is encouraged to write at set hours regardless of mood or inspiration. The second point I may be permitted to illustrate by saying that I have read and re-read this year something over 3000 essays, most of them written by a class of 216 students. The third essential seems to me the most important of the three. That the instructor should somehow lay hold of the student as an individual is, for successful composition work, simply indispensable. This was the secret of the older method of instruction, such as that of Edward Channing, described by the Rev. E. E. Hale in "My College Days":

"You sat down in the recitation-room, and were called man by man, or boy by boy, in the order in which you came into the room; you therefore heard his criticism on each of your predecessors. 'Why do you write with blue ink on blue paper? When I was young, we wrote with black ink on white paper; now you write with blue ink on blue paper.' 'Hale, you do not mean to say that you think a Grub Street back is the superior of John Milton?'"

I think all teachers of composition will feel that Ned Channing's method was good, and will understand very well how it happened that Hale and his seatmates "came out with at least some mechanical knowledge of the mechanical method of handling the English language." But it must be borne in mind that in the larger universities the day of small and cosy classes is long past. Now the hungry generations tread us down. We hardly learn the names and faces of our hundreds of students before they break ranks and go their ways, and then we must resume our Sisyphæan labors. Is there no way in which we can return to the Arcadian methods of those early days? For my part, I think there is a way, and a very simple one: Increase the teaching force and the equipment to the point where the instructor can again meet his students as individuals, and can again have leisure for deliberate consultation and personal criticism. As Professor Genung has well said, the teaching of composition is properly laboratory work. If that is true, why should it not be placed on the same footing as other laboratory work as regards manning and equipment? I confess that I now and then cast envious eyes upon our Laboratory of Chemistry, with its ten instructors and its annual expenditure of ten thousand dollars, and try to imagine what might be done in a rhetorical laboratory with an equal force and a fraction of the expenditure. Nor is the com-parison absurd. The amount of business which needs to be done in order to secure dexterity in the use of language is not less than that which is needed to secure dexterity in the manipulation of chemicals. The student in composition needs as much personal attention as the student in chemistry. The teacher of composition, if he is to do his work without loss of time and energy, and if he is to secure the benefit which comes from constant variation in methods of instruction, needs all the mechanical helps which he can devise. He needs, for example, conveniences for the collection, the distribution, and the preservation of the written work. He needs a set of "Poole's Index," not in a far-off library, but at his elbow. He needs a card-catalogue, revised daily, with thousands of subjects of current interest especially adapted to the uses of his class. He needs a mimeograph and a typewriter; possibly he needs a compositor and a printing-press. Above all (and I do not mean to include these among the mechanical aids) he needs, not one or two, but a score, of bright, active, enthusiastic young assistants to share his arduous labors with him.. Under these Utopian conditions-perhaps not wholly Utopian after allthe teacher of composition could no longer pose as a martyr, and so might miss the sympathy he has been so long accustomed to; but I believe that on the whole he would be a happier man, and I am certain that in the end he would do a vast deal more of good in the world.

In running over the list of courses offered, it will doubtless be noticed that the department does not announce many which are exclusively for graduate students. This must not be taken to imply, however, that provision for such students is not made. As a fact, there is always a considerable body who are pursuing advanced work in English. Many go into undergraduate courses and there find what is suited to them. But for a large proportion special advanced courses are arranged, as they are needed, after consultation with the student. These are obviously too variable in character to be enumerated here.

FRED N. SCOTT.

Assistant Professor of Rhetoric at the University of Michigan.

WALTER PATER.

English prose could have suffered no heavier loss than that of Walter Pater, who died suddenly at Oxford on the thirtieth of July. He was born in London on the fourth of August, 1839, and was thus within a few days of completing his fifty-fifth year. His life was that of the typical scholar, outwardly uneventful. Educated at Canterbury and Oxford, he took his degree in 1862, and was elected to a fellowship at Brasenose. Since then he has occupied various offices in that college. His works are as follows: "The Renaissance" (1873), "Marius the Epicurean" (1885), "Imaginary Portraits" (1887), "Appreciations" (1890), and "Plato and Platonism" (1893). A series of articles on the French cathedrals, in course of publication in one of the English reviews, will probably add a sixth volume to the definitive edition of his works. "Marius the Epicurean" was reviewed by the late H. N. Powers in The DIAL for August, 1885; "Imaginary Portraits" in September, 1887; "Appreciations" by the Rev. C. A. L. Richards in June, 1890; and "Plato and Platonism" by Professor Paul Shorey in April, 1893. The five volumes of Pater's works constitute one of the choicest treasures of English prose. Great as is their value considered merely as so much criticism of art, literature, and life, they have a still greater value as masterpieces of literary expression. It would hardly be too much to claim that since the deaths of Matthew Arnold and Cardinal Newman, at least, Pater has been the greatest of English prose-writers, just as Tennyson was for so many years the greatest of English poets. "Marius the Epicurean" is a classic if there ever was one, and, what is more, it bore so manifestly the sign and seal of artistic excellence that it won instant recognition as a classic from all competent critics. The four "Imaginary Portraits" of the volume that soon followed are akin to "Marius" in their method and aim. In the two volumes of essays, art and literature receive attention about equally, and both of these great subjects are handled with equal mastery. The grace, the insight, the subtle discrimination, and the delicate art displayed in these collections are almost beyond praise. As for the "Plato and Platonism," we cannot do better than quote from our own pages the dictum of the foremost American Platonist, that "it has the rare distinction of being right and just throughout," that "it is the first true and correctly proportioned presentation of Platonism that has been given to the general reader."

FRANCIS H. UNDERWOOD.

Francis H. Underwood, born in Enfield, Mass., on the twelfth of January, 1825, died at Leith, Scotland, on the seventh of August. He was educated at Amherst, taught school for a while, and then practised law. He became literary adviser for the house of Phillips and Sampson, and was one of the founders of "The Atlantic Monthly," being associated with Lowell in its editorship. From 1859 to 1870 he served as Clerk of the Superior Court at Boston. He was also a member of the Boston school board for thirteen years. He was one of the founders of the St. Botolph's and Papyrus Clubs. Since 1885 he has lived in Europe, with the exception of the year 1892-93. He succeeded Mr. Harte at Glasgow as United States Consul, and was appointed to a similar post at Edinburgh (Leith) only last year. He wrote biographies of Long-fellow, Whittier, and Lowell, and expected to complete this quartette of famous New Englanders by a biography of Dr. Holmes. These biographies are reminiscential rather than critical, and in this character are of great value. His latest writings were "The Poet and the Man" (a second and still more intimate study of Lowell), and the first volume of a projected series on "The Builders of American Literature." During the period of his Scottish consulate, he lectured frequently upon subjects connected with American literature, and also contributed to the English reviews. Other publications were a "Handbook of English Literature," a "Handbook of American Literature," a series of musical stories called "Cloud Pictures," and a novel called "Lord of Himself." His most important book, published in 1892, and reviewed in THE DIAL for February 1, 1893, was "Quabbin, the Story of a Small Town, with Outlooks upon Puritan Life." It would be difficult to set too high the interest (as well as the historical value) of this picture of a Massachusetts town early in the century. We said of it upon its appearance: "So careful and detailed an exhibit of a community, of its outer and inner life, has seldom been attempted, and never more successfully made. To the descendants of Pilgrims and Puritans the work is dedicated, and they, at least, cannot read it without being thrilled to the inmost fibre by its sympathetic delineation of their ancestral past, for New England is Quabbin very much as Freiligrath declared Germany to be Hamlet."

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE TEACHING OF LITERATURE, AGAIN. (To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

A certain amount taken for granted goes to the understanding of any utterance; and in the discussion of current topics in public prints a certain point of view, once assumed, is usually understood and respected. Mr. W. H. Johnson of Denison University, who objects to my distinctions and strictures directed to certain phases of the current discussion in The Dial on the teaching of literature, seems to me to disregard these obvious rules.

The question under discussion is concerned with the organization of the teaching of literature in English in the higher institutions of learning in America. The difficulties suggested by me occur to the mind, I think, solely in considering this particular question. In secondary institutions, or for the independent and exceptional teacher, they obviously have little weight. Now my intention was to state the difficulty somewhat paradoxically, and not without a feeling for the lurking irony of the logic of the argument. Mr. Johnson writes admirably of the essential inseparableness of subject-matter and form in matters of art, and we all applaud. But this is also elementary, while at the same time the gist of the real difficulty resides precisely in this point. How far, from the psychological or pedagogical point of view, does the teacher of literature need to go in the exposi-tion of the subject-matter of his text? The extreme in one way, the extreme of license, is well exemplified in the condition of things a few years ago at the University of Indiana, as revealed by Professor Sampson's moving account in a recent number of The DIAL. The reaction from the other extreme is voiced in the modern appeal for the teaching of "mere literature" again. It is perhaps well to understand the dangers on either side, as it is also well to attempt to define, to really define, what the teaching of literature in English from established chairs actually comprehends. Is it literary folklore and rudimentary monuments of speech in general? is it the theory and history of criticism and the various sciences and tentative laws of literary esthetics? is it the old-fashioned literary history? is it psychology and sociology studied in the documents which record th long imagination of the race? is it a miscellaneous and emotional "ethics"? is it solidly philology in the German sense? What is it? After all, perhaps it would not be a bad thing frankly to retain in every university one professorship at least of Things in General as Interpreted in the Emotional and Imaginative Records of the Race. I for one believe it would not be a bad thing, if the right occupant for the chair could always be found. Only, of course, there are other dangers, and the thing should be understood.

The pupil, as pupil, I take it, has really no concern with these distinctions. Mr. Johnson's metaphor from explosives is pretty, and one enjoys the sarcasm of it; but has it anything to do with the case?

If our universities insist on specializing in every direction, let it be done orderly and with understanding; and if there is to be a department of Omniana let it be recognized as such. But from organizers and theorists, at one extreme or the other, let us save the real study of literature, namely, the actual and enthusiastic reading, after whatever method, of the great masterpieces, by the college student.

FREDERIC IVES CARPENTER.

Chicago, August 8, 1894.

The New Books.

A GREAT PUBLIC SERVANT.

The editor of these welcome volumes, much as he merits our gratitude for opening to us so much good literature, is hardly to be ranked among those who practice that eternal vigilance which is the price of accuracy. I have prepared a rather formidable list of misprints, wrong dates, misquotations, and other editorial oversights, and my list is not exhaustive. There is no room for these things here; but my notes are at the service of the editor or the publisher. These beautiful volumes are uniform with the edition of Lowell's Letters recently issued by the same publishers, beside which, both as to form and as to contents, they are in every way worthy to find a place on the bookshelf.

There is something impressive in the very titles of the several papers and addresses here collected; they inspire confidence in the Republic by suggesting the moral foundations upon which alone free institutions can rest down, and by reminding us of the worth, the beauty, the dignity of the American character at its best. Curtis is gone, and we are sure of him. While he lived we seemed to discern in him, through the dust of party conflict and the fog of prejudice, the outlines of a singularly high and symmetrical manhood. Now that the fog is lifted and the dust laid, we perceive him to be of loftier height and more ideal proportions than we had thought. Himself the eulogist of so many approved American worthies - of Sumner and Phillips, of Sedgwick and Garfield, of Bryant and Lowell, and of Washington, - he can afford to await the future enlogist who shall inscribe his name upon the same "eternal bead-roll." His fame as a great public character at length is safe,-Safe from the wolf's black jaw, and the dull ass's hoof."

George William Curtis was, in the words applied by Edmund Burke to his son, "born to be a public creature." His training for public affairs was, however, entirely different from that of most American politicians. For the first thirty-two years of his life his road led him through the most flowery and inviting fields of literature. He had ample time for study and for

wide and select reading; he enjoyed opportunities unequalled, at least in America, for intimacy with literary people; and he knew how to profit by the advantages of leisurely travel. He received also a somewhat careful business training. He became known as the author of some dainty, almost euphuistic, novels, notes of travel, and satirical sketches of society. In all this there was no prophecy of the future politician and reformer.

In 1853 Mr. Curtis associated himself with C. F. Briggs and Parke Godwin in the editorship of "Putnam's Magazine," the most promising literary periodical in America before the founding of "The Atlantic Monthly"; and in October, 1853, he first took his seat in the "Easy Chair" of "Harper's Monthly," the original occupant of which was Donald G. Mitchell. Curtis was preëminently a man of poetic tastes, artistic temperament, and literary aptitudes; and if any man of his times might reasonably have devoted himself exclusively to a career of letters, he was the man. But those were the darkest hours of the conflict against the extension of slavery, and Curtis had in him something of the strain of Milton and of Roger Williams. He could not soar "in the high reason of his fancies, with his garland and singing-robes about him," so long as that " troubled sea of noises and hoarse disputes" resounded in his ears. One of the most deeply-felt and touching passages in all Curtis's orations is that in which he describes the coming of Wendell Phillip's first and only client, on the memorable October afternoon in 1835.

"As the jail-doors closed upon Garrison to save his life, Garrison and his cause had won their most powerful and renowned ally. With the setting of that October sun vanished forever the career of prosperous ease, the gratification of ordinary ambition, which the genius and the accomplishment of Wendell Phillips had seemed to foretell. Yes, the long-awaited client had come at last. Scarred, scorned, and forsaken, that cowering and friendless client was wronged and degraded humanity. The great soul saw and understood" (III., 277).

Twenty years later the same client interrupted Curtis's fine dream of a career like that of Irving. He also understood and obeyed. From that moment, politics—by which I understand the application of morality and reason to public affairs—became the chief business of his life. He became a public creature. In the last of his memorial addresses, that upon Lowell, he applauds the fine insight of his old friend, C. F. Briggs, in remarking "that Lowell was naturally a politician, and a politician like Milton—a man, that is to say, with an instinctive

^{*} ORATIONS AND ADDRESSES OF GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS. Edited by Charles Eliot Norton. In three volumes. Volume I., On the Principles and Character of American Institutions and the Duties of American Citizens, 1856–1891. Volume II., Addresses and Reports on the Reform of the Civil Service of the United States. Volume III., Historical and Memorial Addresses. New York: Harper & Brothers.

grasp of the higher politics, of the duties and relations of the citizen to his country, and of those moral principles which are as essential to the welfare of states as oxygen to the breath of human life" (III., 374). It can hardly be disputed that Briggs would have shown still finer insight in saying this of Curtis. For while the remark is eminently true of Lowell as a thinker and as a writer, he was of too impatient a temper to illustrate the duties of the citizen in his daily life, as did Curtis. In saying this I would not be understood as disparaging Lowell, whose political service was equal to his great political sagacity. But Curtis's sense of his own political duty prompted him to carry the knowledge of the higher politics into that lower politics which is called "practical." He became a political editor; he attended the primary; he was regularly a delegate to political conventions, state and national; he was for many years Chairman of the Republican Committee of his county; he accepted the labors of the chairmanship of the first Civil Service Commission, in which capacity he determined the lines along which that reform has since proceeded; and he was, from its inception in 1881 until his death in 1892, the laborious President of the National Civil-Service Reform League. This may faintly suggest the enormous scope of his self-sacrificing political services. His public spirit led him to accept other offices, - none of them, I think, offices of emolument, all of them offices of trust and honor,-such as that of Regent of the University of the State of New York, which he held for many years; and that of President of the Metropolitan Museum. All these multifarious duties he performed with pains and punctuality. It is scarcely necessary to add that he was never in the ordinary sense either an office-seeker or an office-holder.

The contents of these three volumes group themselves readily into several great classes, which indicate the chief preoccupations of the author's mind. The first class consists of those addresses delivered before, during, and after the war, the object of which was the awakening of the conscience of the nation touching the monstrous injustice of slavery, and, later, the assurance of fair treatment, civilly and educationally, to the freedman. The second class is made up of the addresses advocating woman suffrage, and defending the right of women to the same education as men. The third class is well characterized by the title of one of the addresses: "The Spirit and Influence of the

Higher Education." The fourth class comprises all the reports and addresses relating to the Reform of the Civil Service. The fifth class consists of the historical and memorial addresses. The first three classes of addresses are contained in Volume I., the fourth fills Volume II., and the fifth Volume III. The orations upon Sumner and Phillips, in the last volume, should be read in connection with the first six addresses of Volume I.

The first address in Volume I. is Curtis's answer to the appeal which the client of Wendell Phillips had made in turn to him. It is an oration before the literary societies of Wesleyan University, delivered in August, 1856, in the heat of the great Presidential campaign and of the struggle for the rescue of bleeding Kansas, and only ten weeks after the dastardly assault upon Sumner. In that hour there could be but one subject for Curtis: "The Duty of the American Scholar to Politics and the Times." How severe the inward struggle had been between the promptings of genius and the claims of duty, we do not yet know,- probably we shall never know. But this oration shows decisively that genius had wheeled into line with duty. Speaking as a young man to young men, as a scholar to scholars, he throws all the noble ardor of his nature into this powerful appeal, and compels them to face squarely the grave question of the hour, rehearses the shameful history of American slavery, points out the momentous issues of the present struggle, and calls upon generous youth to obey the call of duty in the spirit of John Milton and Joseph Warren.

"Gentlemen, the scholar is the representative of thought among men, and his duty to society is the effort to introduce thought and the sense of justice into human affairs. He was not made a scholar to satisfy the newspapers or the parish beadles, but to serve God and man. While other men pursue what is expedient and watch with alarm the flickering of the funds, he is to pursue the truth and watch the eternal law of justice" (I., 14).

Reprinted in the "Weekly Tribune," this speech went to every farm-house in the Northland, and it had further circulation as a pamphlet. Later orations of Curtis are chaster in style, more classic in form, riper in political wisdom, more quotable, more what you will; but none probably was more effective in its time, none more historically noteworthy. Mr. Norton does not go beyond the mark in saying: "It helped to define the political ideals, and to confirm the political principles, of the educated youth of the land" (I., 2).

The next oration, entitled "Patriotism," was delivered in the following year at several colleges, and was likewise widely circulated. During the year which had intervened, Buchanan had become President and the Dred Scott decision had been rendered. Patriotism, he argued, is simply fidelity to the American idea the sentiment of human liberty. In reply to the specious charge that the harborers of fugitive slaves were law-breakers, he had no difficulty in showing that laws are of two kinds, "Those which concern us as citizens, and those which affect us as men." The former we obey, even when they are unjust, for "in themselves they have no moral character or importance." The latter, when unjust, "God and man require of you to disobey." As times were, such words as these were deeds. For such words Summer had been struck down; by deeds which were the logical outcome of such words, John Brown was soon to become the immortal Winkelreid of the anti-slavery cause. On the very day on which John Brown was taken at Harper's Ferry, Curtis delivered at Plymouth Church his address on "The Present Aspect of the Slavery Question." Two months later, when John Brown's soul had just begun its eternal march, Curtis repeated the address in Philadelphia. The whole power of the police force of Philadelphia, aided by the armed friends of Curtis, was scarcely sufficient to prevent him from being mobbed. As it was, paving stones and vitriol were hurled through the windows. Even in December, 1860, after the election of Lincoln, an engagement with Curtis to deliver a lecture on Thackeray in Philadelphia had to be cancelled, on account of fear of mob violence. Such was the temper of the people of the City of Brotherly Love at the very time of the investment of Fort Sumter! Small wonder that the Slave Power was arrogantly confident.

During those years the constant habit of public speaking, conversance with public affairs, and no doubt also the stress and excitement of those trying times, had rapidly matured the mind and strengthened the style of Curtis. His logic becomes more cogent, his tone more statesmanlike, his phrase more trenchant. There are terse, curt dicta that remind one of Burke: "A wrong does not become a right by being vested" (I., 85). There is something of Burke, too, in comparisons like the following: "In great emergencies men always rise to cardinal principles, as, in sailing out of sight of land, the mariner looks up and steers by the sun and

stars" (I., 103). But he takes care to make no sacrifice of matter for decorative effect. The soft light of his poetic genius, which shines in the memorial addresses, is converted, in the argumentative ones, into a lantern to light the road. No man is happier in showing up the specious arts by which the people are made to believe a lie. His kindly eye is keen to detect the weak points in the enemy's armor, and his gentle hand is sure at the rapier-thrust. With what consummate art he expresses, as early as 1862, the judgment of history upon Stephen A. Douglas: "The parties were in earnest. Yet he could not be in earnest, for he was only playing for the presidency. "The mills of God!"—there are no mills of God, he smiled and said; and instantly he was caught up and politically ground to powder between the whirring millstones of liberty and slavery' (I., 117). There is a shrewd characterization thrown off with the quiet elegance native to the author of the "Easy Chair.'

It would be easy to multiply indefinitely these illustrations, as it would be delightful to follow him through all the addresses of that time. They are "thoughts that breathe and words that burn." But to go into such details would be far beyond the scope of this article. I have spoken particularly of the earlier addresses, because of their double interest in illustrating the great choice of Curtis's life and in recalling a heroic period of our history. Some of the later addresses are doubtless intrinsically more valuable: they are more moderate in tone, chaster in style, solider in substance, fruitier in flavor, more weighted with experience,—in short, they have the qualities that assure per-

manence.

Of the Memorial Addresses I will not speak, further than to say that they exhibit the sureness of touch, the intimacy of knowledge, the selection of matter, and selectness of phrase, which mark the classic. The addresses upon Sumner, Phillips, Bryant, and Lowell would live, even were their quality less fine, because they are sketches of eminent men from the hand of an intimate friend. But they will be read for themselves and for Curtis. To General Sedgwick he did not stand so near. There is no evidence that they had met; but the address commemorative of him, though slighter, is of fascinating interest. The centennial orations upon Concord fight and Burgoyne's defeat will continue to have for Americans something more than the charm of Macaulay's essays upon Clive and Frederick. No writer has given us more vivid and inspiring battle-pictures; and in Curtis the motive and end of it all are always present,—the human heart-beat is heard above the roar of the guns, the human hope shines through the battle-smoke.

There are two addresses which are more creditable to his courage in avowing and defending his convictions and to his chivalry in the advocacy of unpopular causes, than to his reputation as a statesmanlike leader of opinion. I refer to the pleas for woman suffrage. He makes very plain, indeed, the justice of admitting woman to "the same position with men so far as property rights and remedies are concerned," and this necessarily includes the right to vote upon local concerns. It is unfortunate for this great and inevitable reform that so distinguished and eloquent an advocate should have mixed it up with a larger question, and that he should have defended both with arguments that seem to be borrowed from the wo men. What the cause really needed was a man's logic and a statesman's moderation; and here Curtis missed a great opportunity. To begin with, he all along assumes, and even roundly asserts, that the fact that a thing is a novelty is "a presumption in its favor" (I., 182). That does not remind one of Burke! To compel women to do military service would be a novelty; but would Curtis have admitted the presumption to be in its favor? Then he constantly speaks of men and women as separate social classes; indeed, this grotesque use of the word class will be found, I believe, to carry nearly the whole weight of the argument. This would be delightfully feminine if it were not so misleading. A sense of the danger of class legislation prompted men to restore the ballot to the late rebel leaders. But the very men who performed this act of justice refuse the ballot to women. If, then, one class of men with the ballot is likely to be unjust to another class without it, "how much truer is it that one sex as a class will be unjust to the other." "Woman" is some far-off object of oppression, like the negro or the Hindoo, to whom "man" will be more unjust than to his political enemies or to an alien race. But when we leave off speculating about the class "woman" and the class "man," and look at men and women, we perceive that in actual life men and women, outside of Amazonia, are never separate classes, but that every social class includes both sexes.

"The woman's cause is man's: they rise or sink Together, dwarf'd or godlike, bond or free." Had Curtis read his Burke to better purpose he would never have beclouded a political and social discussion by the introduction of metaphysical considerations, concerning which Burke cried: "I hate the very sound of them!" He would not have accused men, as he does by implication (I., 219), of constant audacity, tyranny, and inhumanity toward women, i. e., toward their mothers, sisters, sweethearts, wives, and daughters. He would hardly have imagined that he had conclusively refuted the theory of the virtual representation of women, by adverting to the illusory nature of that theory in the case of the British Colonies. Nor would he have asserted in the New York Constitutional Convention that the action of that Convention in withholding the ballot from women was an injustice as monstrous, an inconsistency as gross, as would be the disfranchisement of the county of Richmond, from which Mr. Curtis was a delegate. Finally, he would certainly have been more guarded in assuming, as he repeatedly does, that the ballot is one of the natural political rights of women, not seeing that by such an assumption he begs the whole question. The most ardent follower of Rousseau would scarcely deny that a natural political right, if such a thing there be, must be something good both for the individual and for the community. I do not say that the participation of shop-girls in the quadrennial scramble for office, and the voting of ballet-dancers " in blocks of five," would not be a good thing: I merely point out that Curtis begs the question.

In the discussion of this grave question Curtis loses his usual sense and balance. This is very likely not his fault; there seems to be a certain fallacious glamour, a something more than natural, in the atmosphere of this agitation,—"airs from heaven or blasts from hell," that bereave people of their senses, and impel them to indulge in "wild and whirling words." Under the platform of the woman-suffrage convention, as under the platform at Elsinore, there lurks a ghost that cries "Swear!" to him who shrinks from complicity with the overstrained declarations of the place.

The contents of the second volume, consisting entirely of addresses and reports on the reform of the Civil Service, are of a far more serious and statesmanlike character. This volume is at present most timely. One hazards little in asserting that there is no other book comparable to it for doctrine and discipline in right political action at the present time. In the anti-slavery addresses we are dealing with

one who is in the formative stage of early manhood. Working under the guidance of great and inspiring leaders, - Garrison, Phillips, Sumner, Lowell, Beecher, - he plants himself impregnably upon the rock of fundamental morality. It was really a simple question, as questions of duty always are; he clearly saw the solution; and he could bring to bear upon his hearers all his mental equipment, all his spiritual elevation, all the force of ardent conviction. In the woman-suffrage addresses he is doing what he believes to be his duty; he is honestly taking his oath in obedience to the mandate of the ghost. In the commemorative addresses he is more purely reminiscential, descriptive, and decorative. He is following his genius in pronouncing the fitting word upon a great public occasion, in recounting the life and services of some one of the great men he had known, in celebrating the Puritan character, or, what is almost equivalent, in recalling the great words and deeds of the founders of American liberty. But after the settlement of the issues of the Civil War, Curtis finds himself suddenly confronted by a public evil scarcely less insidious and gigantic than negro slavery. His old masters have fallen away: he himself is no longer distinctively a young man; he is surrounded by generous youth, awake to the danger, eager for the struggle, and needing only a leader. Almost from the first the chief advocate of Civil-Service Reform, he lived to be its chief agent; and, in order to be both, he had to become the political philosopher of the Reform. It is in the last capacity that this volume presents him to us.

The first of these addresses was delivered as long ago as 1869; the last, entitled "Party and Patronage," was read (but not by the author) at the meeting of the National Civil-Service Reform League in 1892, only four months before his death. He had been occupied with the subject for a quarter of a century. When his name first became identified with the Reform, it had been advocated in Congress by one member, Mr. Jenckes, and before the publie by two weekly papers, "The Nation," edited by Mr. Godkin, and "Harper's Weekly," edited by Mr. Curtis. "To the general publie it was necessary to explain what the Civil Service was, how it was recruited, what the abuses were, and why and how they were to be remedied" (II., 173). Our politics had reached a stage when, in his own vigorous phrase, "Servility to party takes the place of individual independence of action" (II., 492). Curtis was in every way admirably fitted for the leadership that fell to him. The breadth of his historical reading, and especially his accurate studies in American history, enabled him to see the reform of the enormous evils resulting from the spoils system, -a system growing out of the unconstitutional diversion of patronage from the President to the members of Congress,- to be "but another successive step in the development of liberty under law" (II., 488). The great oratorical and persuasive powers of Curtis, -his skill in winning the goodwill of his audience before introducing the moral consideration, - made him the Wendell Phillips of this movement. His patience, his firmness, his humor, his urbanity, his knowledge of polities, were all brought into play. But what gave his advocacy of the cause most weight was the well-known loftiness of his character. For example, in the address at the unveiling of the statue of Washington, Curtis, referring to the air of American patriotism about the hallowed spot, says: "To breathe it, charged with such memories, is to be inspired with the loftiest human purpose, to be strengthened for the noblest endeavor" (III., 183). When Curtis speaks thus, those acquainted with his life know that this is not mere sentiment with him; but that he is himself fired with this inspiration and energized with this strength. Like the anti-slavery movement, this reform is essentially a moral one, and it was indispensable that it should find a leader without fear and without reproach. Curtis's chief effectiveness and value as a public teacher are due to the high ground he takes, to his magnanimity to opponents, to the fairness of his arguments, to the public confidence in his absolute truthfulness, and to the fact that he never makes appeal to the selfishness of men. Perhaps young Americans will owe more, in the long run, to his steady opposition to the blind partisanship against which Washington warned us, than to any of his specific public services. Himself a party man, he was strong enough to make himself (to borrow his own words concerning the true function of the press) preëminently "the voice of the patriotic intelligence and public spirit which, even while accepting a party name, rejects a party collar" (I., 311).

From the year 1880 until the year of his death, Curtis prepared thirteen addresses upon Civil-Service Reform, all but the first two of which were given as Presidential addresses at the successive annual meetings of the National Civil-Service Reform League. These, in their

way, are of unequalled interest, embodying as they do a history of the progress of the Reform from year to year, sober criticisms of the conduct of presidents and public officials, and a whole arsenal of arguments and illustrations making for the reform. Literary style and finish are here, of course, distinctly subordinated to substance and matter; and yet there are perhaps no more signal illustrations than some of these addresses of the strength and chastity of Curtis's later style. Among his other titles to honorable remembrance is the respect he always exhibited for the English language. In a time when the relaxation of moral standards seemed to mirror itself in the vulgarity of newspaper diction, Curtis kept his tongue, like his heart and conduct, pure and undefiled. The example of taste and high breeding he sets in this particular should not be without its influence.

Curtis will have a place in our literature on the one hand with the elegant essayists, on the other with those orators who have been great public characters. Kant is said to have despised oratory as too rhetorical, too much affected by feeling, too much the art of making the worse appear the better reason. But what would he have said of the orator who employed his gracious gift always in the service of justice and humanity; who, in a time of bitter partisanship, never flattered an unworthy prejudice; and who never flinched, for clamor and calumny, from championing an unpopular cause? Such a man has his function no less than the philosopher who coldly analyzes the final principles of things. Such a man has his place beside the statesman and the hero; and when we enumerate the men who have rendered eminent public service, the noble leader in the Civil-Service Reform will be named along with Alexander Hamilton, with Samuel Adams, with Wendell Phillips, and with Charles Sumner.

MELVILLE B. ANDERSON.

THE STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS OF SOCIALISM.*

The distinctive feature of Dr. Ely's new work on Socialism lies in bringing together for the first time within the same covers both the fairest and most appreciative treatment of the strength of socialism and of its weaknesses. In the emphasis laid upon practicable and muchneeded social reforms, and the discrimination between the sphere of state and of private, of monopolistic and of competitive business, this work is likely to prove the most useful of all works on the subject.

Professor Ely most clearly shows how he and other social reformers can stand side by side with the socialists in the treatment of monopolies of situation, such as gas, street and steam railways, the electric light, telephone and telegraph, and in factory legislation in its widest meaning, without holding at all with the socialists as to the desirability or practicability of collective management of most manufacturing and commercial enterprises. Never before has so strong a sympathizer with most of the truly noble socialist ideals criticised so keenly the methods proposed for their realization or the over-confidence in human nature revealed by their authors. Recognizing the value of socialism in its arousing of the social conscience and the exposure of existing abuses, Professor Ely admits that if the present tendency to the formation of trusts shall continue until each industry is monopolized, then public management may have to come; but he wisely holds that we cannot yet be sure that the trust idea will go so far. A fuller treatment of this subject, however, might well have been given; and the classification of such industrial types as artificial monopolies, instead of as monopolies of large capital, which, so far as they go, are as natural as any other, might be criticised.

Our author speaks of the "hesitation and timidity" which is apt to attend collective action, though elsewhere he holds that this is less important in monopolies of situation than the advantages in such of public operation. The most serious objections to socialism he finds in "the tendencies to revolutionary dissatisfaction which it would be likely to carry with it; the difficulties in the way of the organization of several important factors of production under socialism, notably agriculture; difficulties in the way of determining any standard of distributive justice that would be generally acceptable, and at the same time would enlist the whole-hearted services of the most gifted and talented members of the community; and, finally, the danger that the requirements of these persons engaged in higher pur-suits would be underestimated, and the importance of those occupations which contribute most to the advancement of civilization should fail to secure adequate ap-

His dissent from the tenets of socialism is also shown in his belief that the wastes which he fully admits in the true competitive field of industry are "counterbalanced by the gains arising from competition, such as alertness and the

^{*}Socialism. An Examination of its Nature, its Strength, and its Weakness; with Suggestions for Social Reform. By Richard T. Ely. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

free exercise of one's powers by active efforts to meet wants as they arise."

Occupying so conservative a position, it is noteworthy how vigorously our author champions social reforms in the line of factory and sanitary legislation, public ownership of what I call monopolies of situation, and the recognition of our duty to serve the humanity about us and our state and city with our wealth and talents. He truly holds that the longer we delay these moderate and really conservative reforms, the farther will we have to go along untried and uncertain paths in order to meet the fast rising discontent of the masses.

A few years ago, when the reviewer enjoyed the privilege of listening to Professor Ely's first courses of lectures in America, many, as now, called him a radical and a socialist; but he then said, what this book confirms, that the time would come when, if his suggestions for social reform in the interest of true conservatism were not heeded, the mass of men would be driven past him into such radical views as would make his seem conservative. Such a result has already come; for although the author now holds substantially the economic position he did then, many, on reading the second and third parts of the present noteworthy book, will be surprised to find how conservative Professor Ely now appears, beside the rising tide of socialistic thought about us. To those who, like the reviewer, are agnostics as to our remote social future, but prefer steady and peaceful evolution toward a greater equality of opportunity for all for the development of individuality and manhood, rather than a damming of the current until destruction must attend its ultimate and inevitable sweep onward, the lessons of Professor Ely's chapters on social reform seem well worth heeding.

EDWARD W. BEMIS.

A BRITISH DIPLOMAT IN THE ORIENT.*

Sir Harry Parkes was a household name in China and Japan, both to foreigners and natives. To most Europeans the man was best and familiarly known as "Sir Harry"; by Chinese he was called "Pa Hia-li" and "Pa Tajin"—names which might well have been as awe-inspiring and perhaps even as terrifying as was that of Richard Cœur de Leon among the Saracens. The story of the life of Sir Harry Parkes has been interestingly told by Stanley Lane-Poole, who treats of his career in China and Siam, and Frederick V. Dickins, who treats of that in Japan and Korea. This composite biography reads like a novel; but on disputed points of policy it is a work of special pleading, the conclusions of which must not be too freely accepted.

Though the schooling of Harry Parkes, on account of the straitened circumstances of the family, was limited, "his education really opened on the decks of men-of-war, in the council-chambers of plenipotentiaries, and on the field of battle," where he gained a wide knowledge of men and of affairs. His first appearance on the stage of action in the Orient was in 1842 at Nanking. To this place Imperial Commissioners of China "had at last condescended to come," impelled by fear of a British army and men-of-war, "with full powers from the Son of Heaven to treat for peace" with those "outer barbarians."

"In the midst of this pomp and pageantry of court and war, a slim fair-haired boy with eager young face and vivid blue eyes was formally presented to the Imperial Commissioners. It was thus that Harry Parkea at the age of fourteen took his place in a great historical scene. From this day for more than forty years there were few events in the history of British relations with the Far East in which he did not play a conspicuous part; till the lad who carried 'chops' and dispatches for Sir Henry Pottinger at Nanking in 1842 ended his busy and eventful life in 1885, in the high station of Her Majesty's Minister to the Court of Peking."

As Interpreter at Amoy, Foochow, Shanghai, and Canton, Parkes showed "ability, tact, and ready fluency in the language." He early became convinced that "all mandarins are like eels," and that the only way of dealing with these delusive officials was by means of "firm persistence." In 1855, as Secretary to Sir John Bowring, who was sent to Bangkok to negotiate a treaty with the King of Siam, he was entrusted with the duty of carrying home the documents for the Queen's ratification. When he returned to China, he was made Acting Consul at Canton; and afterwards, when that city was captured by the British, he, facile princeps of a commission of three, was " practically Governor" of the place. In 1860, as an interpreter for Lord Elgin, he accompanied that commander on the march to Peking. In this duty-whether in dealing with the Chinese coolies, or in capturing "almost single-handed" the Peh-tang fort, or in negotiating with the

[&]quot;THE LIPE OF SIR HARRY PARKES, K.C.B., sometime Her Majosty's Minister to China and Japan. By Stanley Lans-Poole, author of "Life of Viscount Stratford de Redeliffe." In two volumes. Illustrated. New York: Macmillan & Co.

wily and slippery officials,—he displayed his characteristic energy, courage, and cleverness.

But even Harry Parkes was once duped by horrible treachery. In a pretended negotiation for peace, he and a few companions, though under the protection of a flag of truce, were seized and conducted in triumph to Peking. Cruel treatment in prison for twenty-one days seemed only the prelude of certain death. The order for their execution was actually issued by the Chinese Emperor; but a friendly mandarin "succeeded in getting the captives out of Peking by order of the Prince of Kung [Peace Commissioner] barely a quarter of an hour before the Emperor's messenger arrived." Sixteen days after the release, a British Embassy for the first time took up its quarters in the city of Peking.

In 1862 Parkes attained the unique distinction of being made a K.C.B. at the early age of thirty-four; and in 1865 he was appointed Minister to Japan. His career in Japan extended over eighteen years (1865-1883), and covered the "Restoration," or "Revolution," of 1868, with its subsequent marvellous transformations in social and political affairs. One writer has said that "the history of Sir Harry's career in Japan was the history of Japan." His policy in this country, as well as in China, has been the cause of much criticism, both favorable and unfavorable, which, to a great extent, has been tinged by national predilections and rivalries. His biographer speaks of the Yedo Court as "terrorized by the American envoy, Townsend Harris, into compliance with his demands," and adds: "It is not too much to say that to Harris's ill-advised and selfish policy were due many of the troubles that attended the emergence of Japan from her long isolation." Americans, on the other hand, defending with spirit their own representatives, have been unsparing in their denunciations of the "British, brutish," domineering policy selfishly employed against Japan, China, and other Asiatic nations. An Englishman, Professor Basil Hall Chamberlain, writes:

"Sir Harry was always a stanch supporter of his country's commercial interests, and a believer in the 'gun-boat policy' of his master, Lord Palmerston. His outspoken threats and occasional fits of passion earned for him the dread and dislike of the Japanese during his sojourn in Japan. But no sooner had he quitted Tokyo than they began to acknowledge that his high-handed policy had been founded in reason."

A high Japanese official once remarked: "Sir Harry Parkes was the only foreigner in Japan whom we could not twist round our little finger." And the Rev. William Elliot Griffis, D.D., in "The Mikado's Empire," gives this appreciative American judgment:

"It was the English Minister, Sir Harry Parkes, who first risked his life to find the truth; stripped the Shogun of his fletitious title of 'Majesty'; asked for at home, obtained, and presented credentials to the Mikado, the Sovereign of Japan; recognized the new National Government, and thus laid the foundation of true diplomacy in Japan."

But it is at least certain that, however much Sir Harry may have accomplished in obtaining the imperial signature to the treaties, and in assisting indirectly and recognizing the unification of the government, he and subsequent British Ministers to Japan have doggedly prevented the revision of those same treaties, which still hold Japan, in spite of her forty years of wonderful progress, in an unreasonable thraldom.

In 1883 "the great British Minister in Japan" received promotion to the position of Minister to China, and returned to the scene of his early achievements. In Peking, into which he had once been carried prisoner in a cart, and where he had languished in the common jail, he was received with honor at the Imperial Court. The principal event of his term in this office was the negotiation of a treaty with Korea, to which country also he became Minister. The new positions entailed unceasing routine labor, not only for the subordinates, but also for the chief, who, though he had often accused himself of "indolence and "apathy," was a hard worker, always "opera inter talia primus." Early in 1885 a fever seized him; and in April of that year death came, less from fever than from overwork, to the distinguished diplomat whose entire service had been in the Orient. He has since been honored with a marble bust in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and in Shanghai with a marble statue, "the first public statue in the metropolis of European China."

Apart from the biographical interest, the great value of these two volumes, and especially of that part relating to Japan, is in the search-lights thrown upon contemporaneous history in the Orient. In fact, the private correspondence of Sir Harry during his life in Japan was so scanty that Mr. Dickins was compelled to be less biographical than historical, and to give the results of his own observations and studies. We may not yet be ready to accept all his inferences; but we are forced, by the vigor of his arguments, to give careful

consideration to the disputed points. It rather startles us, for instance, to read this iconoclastic statement:

"The so-called Restoration of 1868 has been completely misunderstood by most recent writers on Japan; it was no Restoration, but a Revolution, that gave the Mikado a power he had never previously possessed."

And, is connection with the ante-Revolution outbreaks, or "Revolutionary Preludes," as Dr. Murray aptly calls them in "The Story of Japan," Mr. Dickins upholds a theory which investigation tends more and more to establish: that "there never was any intelligent opposition to foreign intercourse on the part of the Japanese"; and that the joi, or anti-foreign, spirit of Satsuma, Choshiu, Tosa, and even Mito, was only a popular slogan with which to stir up the clans in hostility against the Shogun. It is a curious coincidence that at the present time a similar spirit of hostility to foreigners is revived by the radical opposition to the Government. Thus "history repeats itself," even in Japan. And while the present seems a critical period in the history of that country, and constitutional government and representative institutions are there undergoing a severe test, there is occasion not merely for anxiety, but also for hope. As Mr. Dickins has well expressed it, "There is a silent strength underlying the sound and fury of Japanese polities which will enable the country to weather much worse storms than any that threaten it." It may be confidently predicted that during the coming years Japan will continue in a rapid course of progress, and that the twentieth century will see yet more wonderful transformations and developments in civilization than those watched with great interest by Sir Harry ERNEST WILSON CLEMENT.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

The attempt of a brave woman to carry on worthily any great work entrusted to her by her husband when he lays it down at death's inexorable summons can hardly fail to command our respectful sympathy and interest. Still more should this be the case when the woman is the widow of such a man as the late John Richard Green, and the great work is a study of life in the English towns of the fifteenth century. When the possibility of such a thing as American cities was not so much as dreamt of, and while the English royalty and nobility were exterminating each other in the Wars of the Roses, the commoners of the English towns were learn-

ing lessons of self-government, and engaging for the sake of commercial and municipal liberties in obscure and tedious struggles, which, though hitherto over ooked by historians, are far more important factors in the growth of the nation than the tragic fate of the houses of York and Lancaster. In the first volume of "Town Life in the Fifteenth Century" (Macmillan), Mrs. Green treats of the industrial and commercial revolutions of the fifteenth century, of the townspeople and their com-mon life, and of their struggles with the king, the feudal lord, or the church, for enfranchisement and for independent government. In her second volume, the author treats of subjects more abstruse and more open to discussion, such as the relation of internal traffic to free trade and protection, the general organization of labor, the position of the guild towards the hired worker, the attitude of the mu-nicipality to the industrial system, and of the capitalist to the town councillor. Mrs. Green thinks she has found an explanation for the position of the "communitas" side by side with the "cives," and rejects the theory of an early triumph and rapid decay of democratic government, while she attributes great importance to the growth of the common council. Even if one does not agree with the author's conclusions, or even accept all of her data as unimpeachable, one must acknowledge that her arduous labors in a comparatively new field have not been in vain, and that her book will incite the serious student of municipal history to new efforts in the search for truth. Perhaps there never was a time when it was so important for Americans to make a thorough study of all the problems of municipal government and of all the various solutions that have been proposed.

The perusal of Florence A. Merriam's pictures of a Mormon villags. "My Summer in a Mormon Village" (Houghton) leads to the conclusion that the advantages of Utah as a summer resort (and not in a matrimonial way only) are yet unappreciated. Miss Merriam assures us that the climate, which is that of the dry elevated region between the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada known as "The Great Basin," is unsurpassed. Utah and Arizona, having this basin climate, are, she thinks, the natural sanitariums of the continent, far excelling the Adirondacks, Florida, and California, in elevation, dryness, and recuperative effect. Certainly it would be hard to picture anything pleasanter than Miss Merriam's particular "Mormon village," a typical one, it seems, belonging to a line of closely connected settlements in the valley be-tween the Wasatch and the Great Lake. Hilly streets bordered with fragrant locusts under which run mountain brooks (in lieu of prosaic gutters), cool low stone houses set well back in shrubby yards, vine-clad piazzas, delightful old overgrown orchards with their shady lanes and slow-ripening fruit, form an ensemble charming to the fancy these sweltering days. One is not surprised to learn that "children

were everywhere," and that each house, the humblest, had its baby. One local patriarch,-an exbishop - boasted no less than sixty-three of these little olive branches. The author was gratified one day by a sight of this notable anti-Malthusian as he stood in the garden, gravely wagging his gray beard in the shrubbery, and looking, we should fancy, uncommonly like an elderly Satyr. Altogether Miss Merriam's picture of the Latter-Day Saints is more favorable than that usually drawn; and she seems to have seen nothing of the woe-begone men, listless bedraggled women, and squalid children, described by most pilgrims to Mormondom. The book is brightly written, with plenty of local color and character sketching, and with some discussion of the doctrine and present practice of the "Saints." There is a pretty frontispiece illustration.

Mr. H. H. Boyesen's "Literary and Social Silhouettes" (Harper) are brief essays, which, to the number of a dozen or more, fill a most companionable pocket volume. The social element of the book is found mainly in the studies of German and American women, and the capital paper on "Philistinism." Literature gets more attention than society, however, and is illustrated by such sketches as "The Hero in Fiction," "America in European Literature," and "Some Stray Notes on Alphonse Daudet." In "My Lost Self" we have an account of the impressions of a long-exiled Norwegian upon a visit to his native land. Mr. Boyesen records the curious fact that he found himself taken for a foreigner by his fellow-countrymen, and that his Norwegian had taken upon itself an English accent. are bound to speak well of the essay on "American Literary Criticism," for does it not describe THE DIAL as "distinguished for its broad-minded impartiality and scholarship"? The gentle satirical vein that streaks many of these papers gives them flavor and zest, even when it verges upon cynicism. The author makes mild sport of himself no less than of others, as appears in a few sentences devoted to his own novels: "I marvel, in retrospect, that a humane, kind-hearted man (as I believe I am) could have heaped up so much gratuitous misery. . . . A fiendish ingenuity assisted me in inventing distressing situations, from which there seemed no issue possible except death by frost or fire, or a long self-imposed martyrdom of sorrow and suffering.

There seems to be no end of the changes to be rung upon the theme of Christopher Columbus. We had thought that the flood of "Columbian literature" had fairly subsided at last; but it seems not. In a compact volume of some 200 pages, entitled "Christopher Columbus" (Longmans), Dr. M. Kayserling re-tells the story from a novel and not uninteresting standpoint. The question of Jewish participation in Columbus's discoveries has already been propounded, but it has never before been fully dis-

cussed. It is to this question, primarily, that Dr. Kayserling devotes the present volume, basing his narrative upon recent exploration of Spanish archives and libraries. He tells the story of the services rendered to Columbus by wealthy Jews, sketches the dramatic history of the Marranos or "secret Jews," and makes it pretty clear throughout that the race had a good deal to do with things maritime in the palmy days of the Spanish and the Portuguese navies. We own that (despite the Phoenicians) a Jewish sailor has hitherto appeared to us in the light of a roc or a hippogriff—the rarest kind of a rara avis, in fact, and almost contra naturam. Imagination balks at the notion of a son of Abraham bestriding a yard-arm, or having anything whatever to do with a ship-except, indeed, in the way of a bottomry bond. But now comes Dr. Kayserling and shows that with Columbus's armada there were "several men of Jewish stock," including the fleet-physician; and he even offers some evidence that the man who first shouted "Land ho!" (or its Spanish equivalent) from the deck of the "Pinta" was an "'Ebrew Jew." The Doctor's narrative is readable, and, in its way, informing; and it is smoothly translated by Professor Charles Gross of Harvard College. The documents embodied in the text are printed in extenso in the Appendix, and form an element of considerable interest.

Mr. J. K. Fowler's "Recollections of English country life. of Old Country Life" (Longmans) reminds one not a little of that capital book "The Memories of Dean Hole." The laugh is not quite so merry or the manner so taking as that of the incomparable Dean; but the book is full of good stories and curious odds and ends from the memory of a typical English country gentleman
—"one of the olden time," we fancy. Of course
the "sporting parson" figures pretty largely in Mr. Fowler's jottings. There is a good story of one notable shoot of this variety—a rector in the north, whose horsemanship justly made him the dulce de-cus of his rough-riding Yorkshire parishioners. "His rectory-house," says the author, "was on a hill about a mile distant from the church, which was also on a hill, with a valley between them. The rector often rode to church, sometimes across country, putting his horse up at one of the farmers' stables near the church, and the parishioners assembled in the churchyard, waiting for his advent, would watch his progress from the rectory with keen relish, expressing themselves enthusiastically as one fence after the other was safely negotiated. One of them would say, 'He's safely over the single'; another, 'Now he's at the double'; 'Yes, he's all right'; 'What'll he do at the rails?" 'He's well over'; — and the last thing he jumped was the churchyard wall, saving his time by three minutes." Mr. Fowler ranges at random over topics social, political, sporting, and agricultural, and his book is informing as well as amusing. There are several illustrations, including

RRIEFER MENTION.

The welcome series of pamphlets issued by the Open Court Publishing Co., and known as the "Religion of Science" library, appear bi-monthly. The issue for July is divided into two "half-numbers," one of which is a new edition of M. Alfred Binet's important studies "On Double Consciousness," and the other a reprint of sundry articles from "The Open Court," upon the general subject of "The Nature of the State," all by Dr. Paul Carus, the learned editor of "The Open Court" and "The Monist."

Mr. Andrew Lang touches nothing that he does not adorn, and his historical monograph upon "St. Andrews" (Longmans) gives an unexpected charm to the dusty annals of the old Scotch university town. "Very many persons yearly visit St. Andrews," the author observes, and some of these, he adds, "may care to know more of that venerable town than can be learned from assiduous application to golf." Mr. Lang himself shows unexpected and praiseworthy restraint in putting next to nothing about golf into these pages. The town of Wallace and Bruce and the Black Douglas is certainly not devoid of picturesque and romantic interest, and Mr. Lang's account, enforced by Mr. T. Hodge's tasteful pictures, is likely to make the future annual influx of summer visitors larger than ever.

Mr. Herbert Spencer has just published "A System of Lucid Shorthand" (Appleton), devised fifty years ago by his father, William George Spencer, and left in manuscript up to the present time. The present publication results, Mr. Spencer tells us, "from the conviction, long since formed and still unshaken, that the Lucid Shorthand ought to replace ordinary writing." He claims for it great brevity, and greater legibility than belongs to ordinary longhand. The book is a very thin one, and the system correspondingly simple. It ought not to take long for anyone to master the system sufficiently to determine whether he is likely to find it practically useful.

"The Study of the Biology of Ferns by the Collodion Method" (Macmillan), by Mr. George F. Atkinson, is a text-book for advanced students of biology, beautifully printed, and illustrated from original drawings. Mr. F. O. Bowers's "Practical Botany for Beginners" (Macmillan) is also a laboratory manual for students, describing a variety of typical plant-forms, and packed with practical Biology" (Harper) of Mr. Charles Wright Dodge is designed for high-school and college students, is a larger book than either of the preceding, and includes both plant and animal types. We ought also to mention in this connection Mr. Charles H. Clark's admirable treatise on "Practical Methods in Microscopy" (Heath). The multiplication of such text-books as these marks a highly significant advance in our methods of science teaching.

Two more volumes (making seven in all) of the "Temple" Shakespeare have been published (Macmillan). "Love's Labour's Lost" has for its frontispiece a pretty stehing of Anne Hathaway's cottage, while "Much Ado about Nothing" gives us a similar view of Trinity Church at Stratford. Mr. Israel Gollancz supplies the critical apparatus, as usual, and takes good heed not to make it in the slightest degree formidable. For a play-a-volume edition, this one comes very close to perfection.

NEW YORK TOPICS.

New York, August 12, 1894. Messrs. Macmillan & Co. will publish in about three weeks "A New and Complete Concordance, or Verbal Index, to Words, Phrases, and Passages in the Dramatic Works of Shakespeare, with a Supplementary Concordance to the Poems," by John Bartlett, A.M., Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. It is difficult to express the imposing character of this work in a few words, more especially in view of its having been accomplished by one person. The Concordance is a large quarto volume, containing almost two thousand pages, closely though plainly set in small type. As an exhibition of patient industry and scholarship it probably has not been exceeded in this country. Mr. John Bartlett is of course known the world over by his "Familiar Quotations," of which the ninth revised edition, representing many thousands of copies sold, was published in 1891. There has been no figure more fa-miliar than his in Cambridge, Mass., for half a century. He was born in Plymouth in 1820, removing to Cambridge and entering the publishing business about 1836. He succeeded to the management of his firm in 1849, and held this position for ten years. Mr. Bartlett served in the U. S. Navy during the Civil War, and afterwards became connected with the firm of Messrs. Little, Brown, & Co., reaching the senior partnership in 1878. He took up his work on the Concordance shortly after the publication of the "Globe" edition of Shakespeare in 1875, the first cheap complete edition of the dramatist. He has steadily worked on it during most of the daylight hours ever since. The appearance of the revised edition of the "Globe" Shakespeare, still published by Messrs. Macmillan, in 1891, necessitated a certain amount of additional work. This was finished. and the Concordance is now ready to be placed upon the market. It will be sold regularly through the booksellers, these publishers not being engaged in the sub-scription business, and not, I understand, believing in that method of sale. Mr. Bartlett says in his Introduction: "Apart from the merit of presenting the latest and most approved text, now the standard with scholars and critics, the plan of this Concordance to the Dra-matic Works of Shakespeare is more comprehensive than that of any which has preceded it, in that it aims to give passages of some length for the most part inde-pendent of the context." The work, he adds, is made more nearly complete by the inclusion of select examples of certain auxiliary verbs, of various adjectives in common use, and of pronouns, prepositions, interjections,

and conjunctions.

The first volume of Mr. John Codman Ropes's "Story of the Civil War" is now passing through the Knicker-booker Press, and will be published at the end of September by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons. This work will deal less with accounts of battles and sensational episodes generally than has been the case with some of its predecessors, and will treat of the conflict in a more critical and judicial spirit than has been usual. "The Story of the Civil War" has been in preparation for Messrs. Putnam's Sons for several years, and the author has supplied his publishers with a regularly printed volume instead of the usual manuscript, it being his custom to put his work in type and have it printed, before handing it over for publication, in order that he may see it in print and that absolute accuracy may be secured.

in print and that absolute accuracy may be secured.

Mr. Moncure D. Conway is making a brief visit to

the States, during the intermission of his duties at the South Place Chapel, London. He is passing a month or two on the Massachusetts coast, and after a brief rest will complete his editorial labors on "The Writings of Thomas Paine," the third and fourth volumes of which will be published by Messrs. Putnam's Sons during the coming season. Mr. Conway will continue his discourses at South Place Chapel next winter, it now being twentyone years since he first became connected with the organization which meets there.

That band of young Areadians, the Rhymers' Club of London, to whom several references have been made in this correspondence, has just published through Messrs. Elkins & Lane, of London, and Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co. of New York, "The Second Book of the Rhymers' Club." I have never seen the first book of the Rhymers' Club, if such there be. The present volume is composed of poems presumably written for the meetings of the Club. They are signed by Messrs. Ernest Dowson, Edwin J. Ellis, G. A. Greene, Arthur Cecil Hillier, Lionel Johnson, Richard LeGallienne, Victor Plarr, Ernest Radford, Ernest Rhys, T. W. Rolleston, Arthur Symons, John Todhunter, and W. B. Yeats, who make up this company of troubadors. The names of Richard LeGallienne, W. B. Yeats, and Ernest Rhys, "Rhys the Rhymer," as his friends playfully call him, are best known to American ears, but doubtless we shall know

more of all of them ere long. Mr. Gilbert Parker has been contributing some interesting comments on life in the United States to the "Independent," of this city. He will revisit this country in the fall, being now hard at work on a new novel at his Harpenden home. I remember that we were discussing present tendencies of fiction last winter, and that I referred to various expeditions to different parts of the world on the part of novelists in search of fresh material. The question arose as to whether the literary results of these tours had been commensurate with the expectations of those who made them. Mr. Parker replied by saying that if a novelist goes forth for re-portorial purposes and writes immediately after he has visited a country, it seemed to him that he would write pretty largely as a tourist. Mr. Parker believed that a man could not write as well of a thing when he was very close to it, as when he has obtained distance and perspective of memory. He himself had travelled a great deal, but he had never kept a diary regularly, and he always believed that the things which were really worth remembering printed themselves upon the memory and upon the eye, and that in due time they would come up and fall into their proper places in one's work. Mr. Parker did think that the most unfortunate thing for any author to undertake is to go "fiction-stalking.

Now that the "Athenseum" has declared that the last volume of stories by our most promising young writer has the "common defects in American stories of feebleness in motive and unsatisfactoriness in the conclusion," it would seem to be a good time to consider a few of the reasons for the overshadowing of our home novelists by the rising school of British romancers, and this I shall try to do in another letter.

ARTHUR STEDMAN.

A VOLUME of selections from Mr. John Burroughs, edited by Miss M. E. Burt, and entitled "Little Nature Studies for Little People," is announced by Messrs. Ginn & Co.

LITERARY NOTES AND MISCELLANY.

"The Religion of India," by Professor Hopkins, is in the press of Messrs. Gin & Co.

Mr. Marion Crawford's "Saracinesca" novels have been translated into German under the title of "Eine Römische Fürotenfamilie."

Dr. E. E. Hale is reported as saying that he once gave throughout the West "a lecture on sleep, with illustrations by the audience."

The first volume of M. Jusserand's "Histoire Littéraire du Peuple Anglais" has just appeared in Paris. Three volumes will complete the work.

Professor F. N. Scott, of Ann Arbor, has prepared a circular of questions upon disputed points of English usage, which he will send to anyone interested in the subject who will take the trouble to answer the questions.

Mr. George Meredith's new novel, "Lord Ormont and his Aminto," will be published in America by the Scribners about the middle of August. Another new story by Mr. Meredith, entitled "The Amazing Marriage," will be published serially in "Scribner's Magazine," beginning in an early number.

Professor Edward Dowden is preparing two volumes of selections from Wordsworth for the "Athenæum Press" series. A similar selection from Tennyson will be edited by the Rev. Henry Van Dyke. Other volumes soon to appear in this series are Carlyle's "Sartor Resartus," edited by Professor McMechan, and selections from Herrick, edited by Professor Edward E. Hale, Jr.

New editions of standard authors seem likely to be a notable feature of the Fall book trade. Messrs. Frederick Warne & Co. will have a new edition of Scott's novels, the "Edinburgh" Waverley in twelve and twenty-five volumes 12mc; of Shakespeare, the "Lansdowne Handy Volume" edition, in six pocket volumes; and of Pope's Homer, with Flaxman's outline illustrations.

We have received the first two issues, dated May and June, of a new sixteen-page monthly entitled "Shakespeare," and stated to be "The Journal of the Edwin Booth Shakespeare League." The periodical presents an interesting Shakespearian miscellany, and these numbers give excellent portraits of Mr. Irving and Dr. Furness. It is very attractively printed, and decidedly deserving of success.

We have received the first fourteen numbers of "Le Modéle," a semi-monthly publication of M. H. Laurens, 6 Rue de Tournon, Paris. Each issue of this work consists of four plates of original designs or sketches suitable for working up by artists, professional or amateur. There is a great variety of subjects, landscapes, figure-pieces, monograms, subjects for china-painting, etc. The only text is that printed upon the covers.

Owners and collectors of book-plates in America will be interested in the announcement of an exhibition of these plates, to be held at the rooms of the Grolier Club, New York, October 4-20, to which they are invited to contribute specimens. Particulars may be had by addressing the Secretary, Mr. Charles Dexter Allen, P. O. Box 925, Hartford, Conn. A work on American Book-plates, by Mr. Allen, with many illustrations, is to be published this fall by Messrs. Macmillan & Co.

"Euphorion" is the title of a new "Zeitschrift für Literaturgeschichte," published at Bamberg. It is intended to embrace the whole field of literary research from the close of the middle ages to the present time, and will comprise essays of a general character, special studies, important contributions in the form of letters, diaries, archival documents, texts, criticisms, and bibliographical communications. Although chiefly German, the periodical will be somewhat international in character, and will include brief reports on American, English, Russian, Hungarian, and other foreigh literatures.

LECONTE DE LISLE.

Mr. Arthur Symons writes of the late Leconte de Lisle in these terms: "Never was a poet more actually or more fundamentally a scholar; and his poetry both gains and loses, but certainly becomes what it is, through this scholarship, which was not merely concerned with Greece and Rome, but with the East as well-a scholarship not only of texts, but of the very spirit of antiquity. That tragic calmness which was his favorite attitude towards life and fate; that haughty dissatisfaction with the ugliness and triviality of the present, the pettiness and unreason of humanity; that exclusive worship of immoral beauty; that single longing after the annihilating repose of Nirvana,—was it not the all-embracing pessimism (if we like to call it, for convenience, by such a name) which is the wisdom of the East, modified, certainly, by a temperament which had none of the true Eastern serenity? In spite of his theory of impassibility, Leconte de Lisle has expressed only himself, whether through the mouth of Cain or of Hypatia; and in the man, as I just knew him, I seemed to see all the qualities of his work; in the rigid, impressive head, the tenacity of the cold eyes, the ideality of the forehead, the singularly unsensuous lips, a certain primness, even, in the severity, the sarcasm, of the mouth. Passion in Leconte de Lisle is only an intellectual passion; emo-tion is never less than epical; the self which he expresses through so many immobile masks is almost never a realizable human being, who has lived and loved. Thus it is, not merely that all this splendid writing, so fine as literature in the abstract, can never touch the multitude, but that for the critic of literature also there is a sense of something lacking. Never was fine work in verse so absolutely the negation of Milton's three requirements, that poetry should be simple, sensuous, and passionate."

A PROPHET OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

We make the following extract from one of the letters of Sidney Lanier in the August issue of "The Atlantic Monthly." Among the many "prophetic voices" concerning University Extension, we know of none quite so clear and sure as this.

"During my studies for the last six or eight months a thought which was at first vague has slowly crystallized into a purpose, of quite decisive aim. The lectures which I was invited to deliver last winter before a private class met with such an enthusiastic reception as to set me thinking very seriously of the evident delight with which grown people found themselves receiving systematic instruction in a definite study. This again put me upon reviewing the whole business of Lecturing, which has risen to such proportions in our country, but which, every one must feel, has now reached its climax and must soon give way—like all things—to something better. The fault of the lecture system as at present conducted—a fault which must finally prove fatal to it—is that it is too fragmentary, and presents too fragmentary a mass—indigesta moles—of facts before the hearers. Now if, instead of such a series as that

of the popular Star Course (for instance) in Philadelphia, a scheme of lectures should be arranged which would amount to the systematic presentation of a given subject, then the audience would receive a substantial benefit, and would carry away some genuine possession at the end of the course. The subject thus systematically presented might be either scientific (as Botany, for example, or Biology popularized, and the like), or domestic (as detailed in the accompanying printed extract under the 'Household' School), or artistic, or literary.

"This stage of the investigation put me to thinking of schools for grown people. Men and women leave college nowadays just at the time when they are really prepared to study with effect. There is indeed a vague notion of this abroad; but it remains vague. Any intelligent grown man or woman readily admits that it would be well—indeed, many whom I have met sincerely desire—to pursue some regular course of thought; but there is no guidance, no organized means of any sort, by which people engaged in ordinary avocations can accomplish such an aim.

"Here, then, seems to be, first, a universal admission of the usefulness of organized intellectual pursuit for business people; secondly, an underlying desire for it by many of the people themselves; and thirdly, an existing institution (the lecture system) which, if the idea were once started, would quickly adapt itself to the new

"In short, the present miscellaneous lecture courses ought to die and be borne again as Schools for Grown People."

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